KEI: 2021 Report on American Attitudes towards the U.S.-ROK Alliance and North Korea Policy

The surveyed group of 1,000 respondents was weighted to reflect a nationally representative sample of U.S. adults (18 years and older). The margin of error of the survey is +/- 3.54.
Demographics: By Sample Type

Education
- High school or less: 38%
- Some college: 32%
- 4-year: 19%
- Post-grad: 11%

Family Income
- Less than 10,000: 9%
- $10,000 - $19,999: 8%
- $20,000 - $49,999: 25%
- $50,000 - $99,999: 26%
- $100,000 or More: 15%
- Prefer not say: 15%

Ethnicity
- White: 64%
- Hispanic: 16%
- Black: 12%
- Asian: 2%
- Other: 6%

Gender
- Male: 49%
- Female: 51%

Region
- Northeast: 18%
- Midwest: 20%
- South: 39%
- West: 23%

Political Party
- Democrat: 34%
- Republican: 26%
- Independent: 30%
- Other/Not Sure: 11%
KEY INSIGHTS: Americans’ General Views on South and North Korea

- 61% of Americans have a “very favorable” or “favorable” view of South Korea. Only 13% of Americans have an “unfavorable” or “not at all favorable” view of South Korea, and 27% of respondents answered “not sure.”
  - There was a slight decrease in the share of Americans who held a "very favorable" or "favorable" view of South Korea from 66% in the 2020 KEI-YouGov survey.
  - 44% of Americans view South Korea as a critical partner of the U.S.

- 69% of Americans, including with strong bipartisan approval, support the U.S. following South Korea’s lead in denuclearization talks with North Korea, with 61% of Americans feeling it is important for the U.S. and South Korea to cooperate on North Korea related issues.
  - 75% of Americans say it is “very important” or “important” for the U.S. to reach an agreement with North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons.
  - 54% of Americans support a preliminary deal with North Korea that partially dismantles its nuclear weapons capabilities. 13% would not support such a deal and 34% are not sure.
  - 57% of Americans view North Korea as an adversary, which was the highest percentage among available country options which also included China (48%), Russia (52%), and Iran (48%).
KEY INSIGHTS: Americans’ Views on U.S. role in East Asia

- 65% of Americans think the U.S. should work with other nations to manage China’s growing military and economic influence in East Asia. 6% said the U.S should work alone and 8% said the U.S. should take no action.

- Among presented critical foreign policy challenge options that the U.S. should address, the top choice was the ongoing COVID-19 crisis (40%) followed by competition with China (24%). While only 15% of Americans ranked North Korea’s nuclear capabilities as the top critical challenge to the U.S., 68% of respondents ranked it as one of the top three challenges among the five presented.

- 37% of Americans said the U.S. should play a role in reducing tensions between South Korea and Japan, with 28% of Americans indicating the U.S. should not play a role and 34% responding, “not sure.”
Of the listed countries, North Korea had the lowest number of respondents who saw it as a “critical partner” at 5%, and the higher number of respondents who saw it as an “adversary” at 57%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Critical Partner</th>
<th>No Opinion</th>
<th>Adversary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Korea</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Respondents were provided a predetermined list of countries and regions to choose from for this question.
61% of Americans have a “very favorable” or “favorable” view of South Korea.

There was a slight decrease in the share of Americans who held a "very favorable" or "favorable" view of South Korea from 66% in the 2020 KEI-YouGov survey.
Of five presented foreign policy issues that the U.S. should address, North Korean nuclear capabilities were ranked as a top 3 issue by 68% of Americans.

Only 15% of Americans ranked North Korean nuclear capabilities as the top issue.

Critical foreign policy challenges that the U.S. should address

- COVID-19 crisis: 70% ranked it #1, 40% ranked it Top 3
- North Korean nuclear capabilities: 68% ranked it #1, 15% ranked it Top 3
- Competition with China: 65% ranked it #1, 24% ranked it Top 3
- Climate change: 50% ranked it #1, 17% ranked it Top 3
- Competition with Russia: 47% ranked it #1, 4% ranked it Top 3

Of the below options, which of the following foreign policy issues do you consider the most critical challenge that the U.S. should address?
Compared to Republicans, Democrats are significantly more likely to want to see cooperation on:
• Global health (51% vs. 26%)
• Climate change (60% vs 12%)
• Global Human Rights (58% vs. 31%)

61% of Americans feel it is important for the U.S. and South Korea to cooperate on North Korea related issues.

In your view, on which of these issues, if any, do you feel it is important for the U.S. and South Korea to cooperate? Please select all that apply.

- North Korea: 61%
- Development of international trade rules: 46%
- Global Human Rights: 43%
- Technology infrastructure (such as 5G): 41%
- Supply Chains: 40%
- Global health: 38%
- Climate change: 38%
- None of these: 11%
37% of Americans said the U.S. should play a role in reducing tensions between South Korea and Japan.

Democrats are more likely to be in favor of a U.S. role (45%), while Republicans are more likely to not support a U.S. role (36%).

In recent years, U.S. allies South Korea and Japan have had diplomatic and economic tensions due to historical issues. Should the U.S. play a role in reducing tensions between South Korea and Japan?
65% of Americans think the U.S. should work with other nations to manage China’s growing military and economic influence in East Asia.

Both Democrats (68%) and Republicans (72%) largely agree that the U.S. should manage China “with other nations.”

65% of Americans think the U.S. should work with other nations to manage China’s growing military and economic influence in East Asia.

The U.S. has placed emphasis on managing China’s growing military and economic influence in East Asia. Do you think the U.S. should work alone to manage China’s growing military and economic influence in the region, with other nations in the region, or take no actions to manage China’s growing influence in the region?
75% of Americans say it is “very important” or “important” for the U.S. to reach an agreement with North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons. This is consistent across both Republicans (84%) and Democrats (79%).
69% of Americans support the U.S. following South Korea’s lead in denuclearization talks with North Korea.

There is strong bipartisan support from both Republicans (73%) and Democrats (74%).

In recent years, U.S. allies South Korea and Japan have had diplomatic and economic tensions due to historical issues. Should the U.S. play a role in reducing tensions between South Korea and Japan?
54% of Americans support a preliminary deal with North Korea that partially dismantles its nuclear weapons capabilities.

Democrats are more likely to support a deal (62%) and Republicans are more likely to not support it (16%).

Would you support a preliminary deal with North Korea that partially dismantles its nuclear weapons capabilities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationally Representative</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You